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SHOWING OFF - A STARS paramedic talks to visitors about a new helicopter recently purchased by STARS and on display at Zion Church on Jan. 17. See page 4 for more. Noel West/MVP Staff

Capital projects planned for coming year

BY KEVIN VINK
 MVP Staff

Town officials are proposing an estimated \$9.6-million capital budget this year.

At the meeting, Karen Henry, manager of planning and infrastructure, updated council on many of the proposed and ongoing projects during a budget meeting on Jan. 10.

The total 2014 capital project estimate is \$9,655,000, with \$6,417,000 being carried over from last year, and council considering an additional \$3,238,000 from the town's budget for this year.

The largest project being worked out is the lagoon, she said.

"The project itself has been approved, but at (budget) time, we go back and get the cash flow for each year approved in the plan so we can see where things are at," said Henry.

Some of the money for the lagoon project, which consists of two phases, was approved last year, and Henry had hoped to start construction last fall, but contractors didn't get very far.

"So that's where we've got a bunch of construction (for Phase 1) and the Phase 2 engineering in 2014."

Phase 1 is the remediation and rehabilitation of the upper storage lagoon, which would allow for a town population of about 7,000, whereas Phase 2 is the rehabilitation of the lower lagoon, she noted.

The town is carrying forward \$6.1 million from last year for that project, and needs about another \$2.3 million to get it done, and both phases will cost the town about \$13.4 million in total.

She doesn't expect any obstacles in securing the funding, because it has been planned for, through various grants.

"This project was actually approved in 2011, so (officials) have already been squirreling away money for our portion of it from other grants. So it's kind of worked out, fortunately."

She expects after this year's Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, there will be enough money to complete the upper lagoon project.

One issue currently affecting the lagoons is not only the amount of sewage, but also infiltration of ground and stormwater into the system, she added.

"If we can start mitigating some of our infiltration, we can extend the life of it even more. So that'll be something we'll be working on in the next few years."

There are also some ongoing capital projects such as the Rosebud Sanitary Trunk and a new bulk water dispenser to be installed at the current public works location.

"(Council) had approved some money last year, but as they looked into it, the (bulk water) facility we need is going to take a bit more money. So we've asked for more money to be able to do the project that needs to be done there."

She explained that the town has companies that truck potable drinking water to homes and businesses, and that water comes from the bulk water dispenser.

"Currently our dispenser is still on the old public works building on 19th Street. The new owner has been gracious enough to let us continue operating there for now."

There is also an ongoing utility project to allow workers to read water meters by radio, so they will be able to drive down the street while collecting usage information.

It would likely be more accurate than current practices, with less expenses related to acquiring the readings, she added.

At this time, Henry is not asking for any money for the fire hall project, as she is waiting for the building committee — comprised of town and Mountain View County councillors and staff — to decide on a design and cost estimate.

"Then each set of parties will go back to their respective councils, because the county is committed to funding it 50 per cent. We'll be coming back in the next few months on that."

She hopes to award a design and build contract this year, and also hopes to get the foundation in the ground before winter, though there are factors such as design and engineering work that will play into that timeline.

See Projects on p.2



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Bethany Care Society holds open house

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

Bethany Care Society (BCS) staff and officials hosted an open house last week in the Multi-Purpose Room to showcase the new society's facility and various opportunities that it will provide for the town and its residents.

Greer Black, CEO of the BCS, said about 200 people came out to hear about the new seniors' care centre, scheduled to open in early April.

"It's been great, a great day," said Black.

"We had a really good turnout - with people interested from a family point of view, but also lots of people who are interested in joining us as employees and volunteers."

The open house was part job fair and part informal information session, with staff on hand to take questions and provide answers to inquiring attendees.

"So we've had people interested in the building, how it's coming along, what it looks like, and what the plans are for people transitioning from the hospital into the new care centre," he said, noting there were also people

asking how to apply for a job there.

Officials were taking and giving out applications, and also testing the waters with potential volunteers.

Black noted the BCS will likely do a couple more open houses closer to the completion date as well.

"It won't be quite the same information, but generally we'll be looking for employees, and then hopefully in March, as we get the building finished, we'll be able to do an open house in the building."

The centre will be completed later in February, but after inspections are completed and furniture is moved in, he is expecting to see residents move in early in April.

He was questioned by attendees about how the transition process from the hospital will work, as well as what costs are associated with the Bethany Care Centre versus the hospital.

"And so we've been able to, I think, clarify some of that information and refer people to Alberta Health Services, because they do some of the work in terms of who's going to be moving. And we'll be working with them in terms of the timing of that, because we



Noel West/MVP Staff

R. Greer Black, left, speaks with Rita, middle, and Peter Versluys during an open house held by Bethany Care Society at the Didsbury Memorial Complex on Jan. 15.

won't be able to have everyone move in the first day."

There will be a large range of volunteering opportunities, from taking seniors to events to organizing entertainment activities, to bringing pets through to visit.

"I guess it's interesting that some-

body did comment that we thought there would be more high school students coming through looking for volunteering opportunities...we haven't had a lot of students through, but maybe parents or grandparents were coming and getting the information for them," he noted.

Projects

Continued from p.1

"If we could get the in-ground stuff done by winter, that would certainly be nice."

The public works department is also needing a fence installed around the perimeter of the shop's yard.

The Recreation and Culture Master Plan outlined some work to be done, like a Pathway Master Plan.

That plan will list where to put new pathways, sidewalks and trails, how they should be built, and which ones should be done first, she said.

She is hoping to get some paths built, although if that doesn't happen this year, at least officials will have a document to refer to next year.

"Currently, council has a basic plan, but some sidewalks are more complicated than others," she said, noting that places like 23rd Street would need retaining walls and stormwater management before a sidewalk

could be installed.

"And same thing with 15th Avenue. But meanwhile, there's other places where it just may be removing the grass and putting in a hard walking surface. So we have to see which ones will be the priorities and then get some estimates attached to them."

The infrastructure in town also needs a thorough review, she noted.

The town conducted a comprehensive study of infrastructure in 2006, with a brief update in 2008, when the town annexed more lands.

But that information is now old, and some of the work that was identified as a priority has since been completed, she said.

At this point, she would like to see another study done in order to get a good picture of what the town should work on next.

That study will also be looking at roads.

"We can generally do some kind of road project every

year. Not huge, but some kind of road project."

For the last couple of years, the roadwork did slow down in order to save funding for the project at Southridge Crescent, but the town was able to resurface 23rd Street south of town to the county line last year.

"So then we were starting to look at 23 Street going north outside of town, but it turns out the county is also looking at Range Road 20, which is what that street turns into," she said.

"So we're going to team up with them on the study, with the anticipation of next year or the year after, we'll probably do work on that road."

She is also looking at doing a hardtop upgrade on 10th Street, north of Highway 582, which leads into Vala Rosa, and possibly even up to Rosebud Bay.

After that, the only other relatively big project is to complete assessments on town facilities, "so that we can actually plan so we don't get blindsided or caught by surprise like we were with the pool."



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Health challenge for communities in region

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

Representatives with the Highland Primary Care Network (HPCN) invited council to encourage residents to participate in the network's upcoming Health Challenge competition.

Three officials spoke to council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Jan. 14, explaining that the contest will not only focus on physical activity, but healthy living as a whole, according to HPCN executive director Micheline Nimmock.

The HPCN oversees all primary health care between Calgary's city limits and Didsbury, and they are challenging Didsbury, Carstairs, Crossfield, Airdrie, Cremona, Beiseker and Irricana to take part in the challenge.

"The goal is to encourage people in the communities - citizens of our primary care network - to be more active and to learn about some tools and some activities that would encourage them to be more active in their communities," said Nimmock.

The teams will be determined by the community participants live in.

She noted that although Airdrie's population base far exceeds that of the other communities in the challenge, the competition's results will be based on a proportion of the participating communities' population, rather than base numbers.

The competition will begin on Feb. 24, and the website dedicated to tracking participants' progress will be accessible through (www.HPCN.ca) a week or two before that.

Participants will be able to sign up under a pseudonym of their choosing, and are encouraged to get relatives to join in. They will be able to accumulate points for the team they choose to join, even if they don't live in the same area,

or even the same province.

There are 10 activities that will gain points for the town teams, including exercising, eating fruits and vegetables, doing a good deed, and even having a good laugh.

"The idea behind it is that anybody can get points. If you're an elderly person and you can't be very active, you still get points for doing a good deed, and get points for having breakfast," she said.

"We tried to make it a well-rounded and holistic competition."

She said the HPCN office is currently testing out the prototype of the website by running an inter-office contest, and she said the competition is both fun and fierce.

"Somebody said 'you know what, I realized I haven't had a laugh today.' So what we're doing in our workplace is be conscientious, making sure everybody can get their points and challenges during work hours," she added.

Getting co-workers involved in the activities as a group has led to employees having some fun together, and she encouraged workplaces in town to follow suit.

The competition, which will end right before Easter, is meant to make residents of the region more aware of the easy things they can do to improve their health, no matter how little those things may seem.

"And hopefully if it takes off, we'd like to do it every year and it could be fun and something to look forward to."

The prize for winning will include a celebratory dinner in the community that wins, as well as signage designating the community as the winner of the competition, and bragging rights.

There will also be gold, silver and bronze rankings for individuals in each community, so people can see how they stack up against others.



Noel West/MVP Staff

TAKE THE SHOT - Didsbury High School Dragons player Kyra Paulgaard goes for a layup during the Dragons game against the Sundre High School Scorpions at Didsbury High School on Jan. 15.



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New STARS helicopter lands in town last week

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

About 120 people came out last Friday morning to see the new STARS helicopter land at the Zion Evangelical Missionary Church parking lot, say officials.

Police, paramedics and Didsbury Fire Department members all came out for the practice landing, allowing crews a chance to see how they will work with the new helicopter, he noted.

"Everybody I talked to, they were quite impressed and they were also quite taken with the fact that we definitely do need a new helipad," said Albert Ohlhauser, chair of the Rosebud Health Foundation (RHF). The foundation has been raising funds to build a new helipad that will fit the larger chopper and replace the temporary landing site in the church parking lot.

"I thought it was a very nice looking bird, and I think that the response times are going to be shorter now for STARS because it can go faster as well."

There was coffee, juice and pancakes provided by the RHF and served in the church, and officials had also set up a donation table for those who wanted to help in the fundraising.

There was between \$300 and \$400 in tax receipts given out, although the final count of the donations will be done early this week, he added.

"We appreciate that STARS did come up and stop in Didsbury and show us the new helicopter. And they gave us a couple models we used for the display, and they're behind (the RHF) 100 per cent," he said.

"And the kids sure enjoyed it because they got to sit in front in the cockpit, it was neat."

After the helicopter left Didsbury, it made stops at the Olds-Didsbury Airport, the Sundre Airport and the Rocky Mountain House Airport, at which point it turned around and headed back to the base in Calgary.

A press release from STARS officials said the run was part of a training program to give both STARS crews and area emergency personnel a chance to work with the helicopter in a non-emergency situation.

The organization anticipates the Calgary-based AW139 helicopter and its crew will be ready to fly missions in early 2014, depending on how quickly they move through flight and aircraft maintenance training.

According to STARS officials, the new helicopter will have: faster response times and greater service range; a large medically-equipped interior with more space; a powerful twin engine for greater lift capacity and safety during takeoffs and landings; and a de-icing system that

will allow STARS to respond during adverse weather conditions, states the release.

There are now two of these larger-model aircraft, which cost in total about \$26.5 million to purchase.

The normal cruise speed for these craft

is 150 knots, or 278 km/h, whereas the regular current fleet generally goes about 225 km/h – or 120 knots.

The older models will continue to serve either as a primary aircraft for the Grande Prairie base, or as backup aircraft for the Calgary and Edmonton bases.



Noel West/MVP Staff

Visitors check out the interior of a new helicopter purchased by STARS at Zion Church on Jan. 17.

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Opinion

Editorial

Children in care stakes couldn't be higher

A recently announced plan aimed at improving the province's child intervention system is certainly one of the most important initiatives ever undertaken by the Redford government.

At stake are not only the health and well-being of children in care in 2014 but also the care of other children in years to come. As such, the success or failure of the plan is of interest to every Albertan.

The five-point plan focuses on enhancing information sharing, addressing the root causes that bring children into care, and supporting collaborative research to improve services to children and their families, says Manmeet Bhullar, minister of human services.

"We will move quickly to implement our plan to increase protections for every child in this province and we will push for continuous improvement of supports for vulnerable children and their families," said Bhullar.

"At the same time, we will ask all Albertans to join us in fostering better environments for our children because we know that it takes a village to raise a child and that we're all in this together."

The plan's goals will include the following:

- Focusing on the root causes of many of the issues that affect the safety and well-being of children, such as poverty, addictions, sexual abuse, mental health concerns and family violence.
- Consistently sharing information on the child intervention system with the public to ensure ongoing improvement.
- Enhancing education, training and support for child intervention workers to strengthen casework practice.

Dr. Nico Trocmé, professor of social work at McGill University; Trevor Daroux, deputy chief of the bureau of community policing with Calgary police; Dr. Lionel Dibden, pediatrician and medical director; and Tim Richter, president and CEO of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness have been appointed to oversee the plan's implementation.

While the initiative is only just underway, some observers have already come out in support, which is encouraging.

"The five-point plan announced by Minister Bhullar represents a significant commitment to strengthening several key aspects of Alberta's child intervention system," said Gord Phaneuf of the Child Welfare League of Canada.

Make no mistake, in launching this new initiative the Redford government certainly has taken on a very "significant commitment" to Alberta's children in care.

There is no higher responsibility for any government than the overseeing of the well-being of children in care – it can quite literally be a matter of life and death for some of the province's most vulnerable citizens.

As such West Central Alberta residents and others will be watching the progress of this new plan with great interest.



DESPITE ALL FILTERING EFFORTS, SPAM KEEPS SHOWING UP...

Commentary

Celeb health endorsement explored

ALAN CASSELS

Is it a good idea to embark on a genetic hunting expedition to see if you're at "high risk" of developing a particular disease?

That question was examined once again last month when the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) – an independent group of scientists making recommendations on medical screening – issued a warning that BRCA testing to find gene mutations associated with breast cancer, should not be sought by women at low risk and unlikely to benefit.

The USPSTF was, no doubt, responding to the "Angelina Effect", referring to celebrity actress Angelina Jolie who underwent genetic testing for mutations related to the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, believing that she may be more likely to develop breast cancer. Coming from a family with a deadly history of breast cancer, Jolie was told she was in a "higher risk" category than average and that she would benefit from such testing. Later, after hearing she carried the bad genes, she went ahead with a double mastectomy – a full surgical removal of both breasts – and wrote about it in the New York Times.

Not only did this drive sales of the genetic tests for breast cancer into the stratosphere, it also drove legions of women to their doctors saying: (a la When Harry Met Sally), "I'll have what she's having." The British newspaper, The Mirror reported that breast cancer charities saw a "four-fold surge in women enquiring about having their breasts removed."

The U.S. experts, perhaps

responding to this craziness, have come out recommending that women with a family history "not associated with an increased risk for mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes," should decidedly not seek routine genetic counseling or testing.

The fact that women are driven to ask about genetic testing reflects our celebrity-obsessed culture, a strong fear of breast cancer and a somewhat earnest grasp of the "better safe than sorry" mantra which consumes many of us. It's likely that the vast majority of those new customers lining up for the test would be classified as the "worried well" who would be unlikely to carry the rare genetic mutation and hence would receive no benefit from being screened, and for whom prophylactic removal of one's breasts would be an extremely unwise option.

This is not the first time public health authorities have taken note of the health prevention advice coming from celebrities. People in the screening world also speak about the "Katie Couric Effect" when referring to the massive public impact, in Couric's case, of having a colonoscopy performed live on the Today Show. This brought massive star power to the issue of colon cancer screening and proved, once again, that virtually nothing trumps celebrity endorsements when it comes to making high octane public health appeals.

In fact, public health communicators study the Couric colonoscopy as a classic case in how to get people off the couch and heading to their doctors to do some

thing they would otherwise find yucky. As only about 50 per cent of Canadians over 50 routinely partake of regular colon screening programs which might detect and deflect a potentially fatal colon lesion, Couric's star endorsement probably contributed to a good thing: a substantial increase in the numbers of people asking for and submitting to colon cancer screening.

However, the recent advice from the USPSTF on genetic screening and breast cancer is spot on and the numbers tell all. Somewhere between two and three in 1,000 women will carry the same genetic anomalies as Angelina Jolie. For women of "very high risk" of the BRCA genes, such as Ashkenazi Jewish women, the rate is about two in 100.

The experts say that women who have one or more family members with a known potentially harmful mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes should be offered genetic counselling and testing. Everyone else, and that is most women, should avoid getting tested.

It is difficult to say if the sober recommendations of an august panel like the USPSTF can compete against the star power of a superstar celebrity – who, it might be noted, never advocated for others to get the test, but detailed her own experience and advocated for "informed choices." In any event, we shouldn't be too dazzled by celebrity magnetism and dive into screening for the remote possibility of discovering that we are at "high risk."

Alan Cassels is a Troy Media columnist and an expert advisor with EvidenceNetwork.ca.

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Progress on APP not where police had hoped

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

The third-quarter progress report of the Didsbury RCMP's Annual Performance Plan (APP) revealed that officers have not quite been able to keep up with the prioritized goals so far.

Sgt. Jeff Jacobson explained that the goals were set out with the assumption of a full staff, and although some goals are still needing some work, some are within reach before the close of the fiscal year on March 31.

"These challenges resulted from a prioritization of our call response, while there was decreased time for proactive activities," said Jacobson, noting that the

goals are worked on when officers are not busy with service requests.

Although the statistics are lower than he had hoped, the recent additions to the detachment's staff should help give a strong finish to the APP for the 2013 fiscal year.

Jacobson set out three main priorities to focus on during proactive work in the detachment's area, including increased visibility, road safety, and the reduction of drug abuse.

For community visibility, there was a goal of 250 patrols to Cremona, of which 139 have been completed, and 300 foot patrols and bar walks, of which 205 have been completed.

There have been 257 speed-, intersection- and seat-belt-related warnings or tickets issued, out of a goal of 400, and there have been 128 school zone patrols completed during school hours, out of a goal of 200.

Police also had a goal of 30 drug-related charges or no-case seizures, with 27 being completed so far, and a goal of 15 drug presentations at area schools, of which 14 have been completed.

Jacobson noted the priorities are selected after consultation with Cremona, Carstairs and Didsbury town councils, and he said this year's priorities were very similar for each town, making it easier to choose priorities for his staff to refer to while on proactive duty.

Fence damaged

An individual recently reported that an unknown vehicle drove through the gate of a rental property on the 1800 block of 15 Street, say police.

It happened sometime between Dec. 20 and Jan. 9. "The vehicle had run off the road, collided with two road signs, and went through the fence on a property. It appeared somebody was just driving too fast."

He noted the incident was not reported by the driver, and if police find out who did it, they could be facing charges of failing to report damage to a property.

"However, certainly if somebody was involved with that and they came in and provided the details, we would be able to pass that onto the property owner and most likely would consider that as them reporting it."

Scaffolding stolen

A scaffolding wagon was stolen from the new strip mall being constructed on 20 Avenue in town, said

Police briefs

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

Jacobson.

He said it was likely stolen between January 12 and 15, and he noted that a piece of equipment like that would need to be loaded onto a trailer for transport.

"All the scaffolding on the wagon also went missing."

Shop broken into

A shop located on Highway 2A was broken into between the evening of Jan. 9 and the following

morning said Jacobson.

"Somebody entered through a window and computers and a phone were stolen," he said.

"Definitely we're seeking anyone who has information (on any of these crimes) to contact the Didsbury detachment directly or Crime Stoppers, to anonymously provide a tip."

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Information Line 403.335.2030
After Hours Pager 403.507.3624
Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, February 12- at 4:30 pm.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.



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- Recycling Blue Bins will be picked up every week on your collection day.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

As part of the Maple Leaf Exchange Program, students from Miki-Town will be visiting Didsbury again in March 2014. We are looking for families willing to open up their home to a Japanese student between the ages of 13 - 15, and let them experience life in Didsbury. Dates for their stay in Didsbury is March 20 - 24, 2014.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact CynDee Walden, Maple Leaf Exchange Coordinator at 403.335.7724 or by email at cwalden@didsbury.ca.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Development Permits have been issued for these proposed developments:

DP 14-02
DP 14-03

2001-5 - 24 Avenue
2024 - 17 Avenue

Demolition
Change of Use

Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037 - 19 Avenue or by calling 403.335.3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 12:00 pm on February 4, 2014.

Dani Woodman - Development Officer

Moving progressively into the future by enhancing our community and quality of life, while respecting our history.

Dustin Piper pleads guilty to second-degree murder for death of Garland Curtis

BY PAUL EVEREST
MVP Staff

WARNING: This story contains details that some readers may find disturbing.

After those who knew and loved Garland Curtis shared their feelings of loss, sorrow and anger, a judge gave the man who ended Curtis's life a year ago

a life sentence with no chance of parole for 10 years.

Dustin Piper, 24, who was living and working in Olds at the time of his arrest on March 16 for Curtis's killing, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder on Jan. 8 in a Calgary courtroom filled with Curtis's friends and family, many of whom

had travelled from New Brunswick and northern Alberta for the sentencing hearing.

Piper's adoptive parents and brother, as well as RCMP members who had investigated the murder, were also present in the courtroom.

Piper had originally been charged with first-degree murder in

the killing of Curtis, 40, whose body was found in his Airdrie home on Jan. 12, 2013.

At the beginning of the hearing on Jan. 8, however, Crown lawyer Britta Kristensen asked for the first-degree murder indictment to be withdrawn and Piper, who appeared in court clean-shaven and wearing blue jeans

and a grey T-shirt, was then arraigned for second-degree murder, to which he pleaded guilty.

Last summer, he had initially pleaded not guilty to the first-degree murder charge.

ANATOMY OF A MURDER

Following Piper's plea, Kristensen read a statement of facts

about the murder to the court for the first time since Piper's arrest, beginning with how a friend who worked with Curtis in Fort McMurray contacted police in Airdrie to check on Curtis's well-being on Jan. 12 after he had not been heard from for several days.

Police entered Curtis's home through an unlocked back door and immediately detected a foul smell coming from the basement.

Kristensen said police found Curtis in a bloodied basement closet with a plastic bag over his head and his body wrapped in a blanket.

She said Piper and Curtis had known each other for two years prior to the murder and were involved in a "sexual relationship."

On the morning of Jan. 9, 2013, they were text messaging each other about getting together that evening and Curtis sent several texts stating he planned to have sex with Piper that night.

"I'm doing you as soon as we get home," Kristensen quoted Curtis as stating in a text.

Curtis picked Piper up at his home in Olds and brought him to Airdrie, she said, where they watched a movie together.

During the movie, Curtis attempted to have sex with Piper, but Piper refused and went to take a shower.

When he returned, Curtis was sleeping.

Piper took an awl—a pointed tool used for making holes in materials such as leather—from a toolbox and, after putting his knee on Curtis's neck, struck the sleeping man in the head three times with the awl.

He then dragged Curtis's body to the basement of the home.

Kristensen said an autopsy conducted on Curtis on Jan. 15 revealed he had died from head and neck injuries included two penetrating injuries to his head and bruising to his neck.

Piper, she continued, took the sheets from Curtis' bed after the killing and wiped down any surface in the house he thought he had touched and then removed items from the home he thought he had touched and loaded them in Curtis's 1994 Saturn sedan before driving back to Olds.

See Piper on p.10

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Province's H1N1 flu shot supply runs out

BY LEA SMALDON
MVP Staff

People seeking an H1N1 flu shot last week were caught off-guard when the supply of the province's publicly-funded vaccine was first rationed, and then ran out.

"We had phone calls from all over the area...they're all searching," said Didsbury and Carstairs Pharmasave owner and pharmacist Jody Keller last Thursday.

With more than one million people vaccinated, health officials said this has been the most successful seasonal influenza vaccination campaign in Alberta's history.

"Every year, we try to increase participation in our vaccination program to help protect people from the flu. Over the course of the campaign, we have encouraged Albertans to come get their shot, and they have responded in record numbers," said Dr. James Talbot, chief medical officer of health.

The significant uptake in the vaccine depleted the province's supply by Jan. 10.

Mass public immunization clinics and health unit appointments previously scheduled for the rest of January in Didsbury, Airdrie, Olds, Sundre and the rest of the province have now been cancelled.

Across the country, demand for the flu vaccine is exceeding supply. Talbot is in discussions as part of a national working group of chief medical officers to review what supply may be available and how it could be distributed to provinces and territories.

Provincial health officials say all but three jurisdictions have put in requests for more vaccines.

The province took possession of the "last flu vaccine shipments on the plan-

et," last Tuesday from Italy, said Health Minister Fred Horne during a press conference held the following day.

All of the additional 65,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine that came in that shipment were reserved for Alberta Health Services, he said.

To try and bolster supply at public health units and vaccination clinics, health officials held back already-ordered shipments of the vaccine from pharmacies last week.

Keller and his staff scrambled last Tuesday to call and cancel clients who had already booked appointments to receive a flu shot.

Pharmacies, he said, have been popular places to get the shot this flu season.

In his Didsbury pharmacy, he said more than 300 vaccinations have been administered, noting similar numbers in his Carstairs location.

That's double what was administered between the two stores during the 2012-2013 flu season, he said.

"I don't expect to get any more in," said Keller.

Didsbury Value Drug Mart owner and pharmacist Brad Blatz said his pharmacy administered about 260 vaccinations before his supply ran out on Jan. 3.

"Without supply issues, we probably could have doubled that," said Blatz.

He noted that his supplies had run dry a couple times during October and November, but he would order more each time. This time however, there are no options to get more, although he was under the impression that he would be able to.

"To some extent (I am surprised), because they have always kind of lobbied the flu strategy that anybody who wanted it could get a flu shot,"

he said.

"I can understand why they ran out, because the vaccination rates were lower earlier in the flu season, they didn't expect a big surge in January, but it's still surprising that when that surge hit that they ran out of their supply."

He encouraged those who get flu shots annually to do so earlier in the season next time to guarantee that they will get vaccinated.

"Not to say that people should be expected to be left out in the cold in January...but if people want to ensure that they can get a flu shot, it's always best to get it in October or November, when the flu vaccination season starts."

"I think that's probably the take home message we can all learn from this."

Horne confirmed last Wednesday that close to a third of the province's vaccinations were administered through pharmacies. He noted that they will not be receiving any more publicly-funded vaccine.

Provincial health officials say they have reserved limited doses to

address specific outbreaks in health-care centres and continuing care sites.

Limited doses have also been reserved for children who have received first doses and require second doses of the vaccine. Children under the age of nine who are receiving seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time this season require two doses this season to be fully protected.

The height of the flu season is expected to hit at the end of January and beginning of February, said Horne.

According to health officials, nine people in Alberta have died from H1N1 flu this season and as of last week more than 1,300 cases had been confirmed.

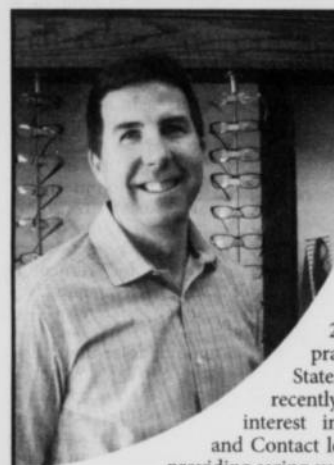
This is being called the worst outbreak of H1N1 since the pandemic in 2009.

The province's publicly-funded flu vaccine has been available since the end of October. By Jan. 2, provincial health officials were encouraging even more Albertans to get vaccinated which resulted in about 150,000 more doses being administered by early last week.



File photo

Local pharmacists give their side of the story following a massive shortage of flu vaccinations.



DR. JEFFREY D. WADDELL

is excited to be joining the doctors and staff at **Forsight Vision Centre**. Originally from Edmonton, Dr. Waddell completed his undergraduate degree in microbiology at the University of Alberta and his optometry degree at Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon in 2002. He has spent the last decade practicing optometry in Washington State, Maryland, St. Albert, AB and most recently in Nanaimo, B.C. With a special interest in Paediatrics, Dry Eye treatment and Contact lenses, Dr. Waddell looks forward to providing caring eye care to the Didsbury community for many years to come.

In his spare time Dr. Waddell enjoys spending time with his wife Alanna, their two children, Mitchell and Ella and of course the family dog, Chubbs.

We are pleased to announce that starting February, we will be open Saturdays 9 am - 3 pm



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Piper

Continued on p.8

That car was found outside the Olds Auction Mart on Jan. 21.

On the drive from Airdrie to Olds, Piper threw the awl out the window of the car.

He had also created a text message conversation between himself and Curtis using Curtis's phone where he, posing as Curtis, sent a text thanking himself for the evening to his own phone and then responded that he had made it home safely.

Kristensen said Piper continued to send texts to Curtis's cellphone number on January 10 and 11.

"Hey buddy, where are you?" one of the messages read, Kristensen said.

He also bragged to his friends in the days following the murder through text messages and social media that he now had a Volcano vaporizer, one of the items he had taken from Curtis's home that was being used for the consumption of marijuana.

Police had observed Piper sometime after the murder chasing after a garbage truck in an alley behind his home in Olds carrying a garbage bag.

Inside the bag, they found Curtis's laptop that Piper had taken the night of the murder and later they discovered Curtis's iPad tablet between Piper's mattresses.

On Jan. 30, Kristensen said, Piper told investigators he had not seen Curtis but prior to his March 16 arrest at a friend's home in Didsbury, he had told friends he had killed Curtis, although he had said he didn't remember details of the killing.

One friend said Piper had described himself as a "schizophrenic" when referring to his state of mind at the time of the murder.

When he was arrested, Piper made a number of false statements about Curtis forcing himself upon him to police, including a statement that Curtis had raped him and he had killed Curtis during a struggle.

He later told police the reason he killed Curtis was because he had "snapped."

In an interview after the sentencing hearing, Sgt. Ben Scott of the Red Deer RCMP's major crimes unit said police were ultimately able to identify Piper as a suspect in Curtis's murder from phone records.

"One of the things that pointed us in that direction was just last contact," he said. "Who did the victim last speak with, so phone records and that sort of thing."

Scott added police started looking at Piper as soon as investigators received the phone records, about a week-and-a-half after Curtis's body was discovered.

MITIGATING FACTORS

After Kristensen finished reading the facts

of the case, Justice C.S. Anderson said she found Piper guilty of second-degree murder and Kristensen recommended a life sentence with no chance of parole for 10 years.

She said this was the minimum parole eligibility for second-degree murder and her recommendation was based on mitigating circumstances such as Piper voluntarily pleading guilty, sparing Curtis's family and friends from a trial, as well as his youth, eventual cooperation with police and lack of a criminal record.

She also said Piper was in foster care in Ontario from the ages of one to four before he was adopted by his grandparents, who he now calls his parents, and had acted as a "positive member of society" while serving as an Air Cadet in his teens and early 20s.

At age 17, he received the silver Duke of Edinburgh award, which recognizes young people who develop a sense of responsibility to themselves and to their communities.

The aggravating factors in Piper's case, Kristensen added, were that he had committed a "senseless and brutal attack" on Curtis when he was the "most vulnerable" and had gone to great lengths to cover his tracks.

He had also profited from the murder, she said, referring to the vaporizer, and had bragged about this to friends.

Lawyer Krysia Przepiorka, who represented Piper at the hearing, agreed with Kristensen's recommendation and Anderson, who called Curtis's death a "tragedy," delivered the sentence, giving additional orders that Piper provide a DNA sample and that he be prohibited from owning weapons for the rest of his life.

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

Before the sentencing, victim impact statements from members of Curtis's family as well as several of his friends and co-workers were shared with the court.

His mother, May, who had travelled from New Brunswick for the hearing, had her statement read by Kristensen.

"He was special, always loving and kind," she said in her statement.

"A son holds his mother's hand for a little while, her heart forever."

May added she now feels an "emptiness" inside due to her son's death.

Curtis's sister, Stacia Keenan, read aloud statements her sons Owen and Aidan had written for their uncle.

"I do not understand why anyone would have wanted to hurt my uncle," Owen had written.

Aidan wrote that he can no longer use the word "uncles."

"Because I only have one now."

Stacia then told the court her world had been "shattered" on Jan. 12, 2013, because of the murder.

She said the circumstances of her brother's death and the ensuing judicial process had left her "frustrated" and "anxious" and added she would only feel a second of satisfaction at hearing Piper's sentence before remembering the loss of her "little brother."

"There has not been a day where I have not shed a tear or felt overwhelming sadness," she said through tears. "We hold our children tight and miss Garland's presence terribly."

Stacia also said Piper's hiding of Curtis's body was an "indignity and disrespectful to our family."

"That will be forever part of my world," she said.

While she thanked police and legal officials who had helped her family in the last year, she said she felt no "sense of closure," since she was never allowed to see Curtis's remains.

Cindy McGuire, who worked with Curtis in Fort McMurray and had alerted police to carry out a welfare check after Curtis didn't respond to her text messages, called Curtis her "right arm" in a statement that Kristensen read.

She also said his co-workers were gathering in Fort McMurray on Jan. 8 to honour Curtis.

PIPER SPEAKS

Throughout the entire hearing, Piper kept his head down in the prisoner's box and showed no emotion.

When he was given a chance to speak, he faced the Curtis family for the first time and said he realized no words would make up for what he had done to Curtis.

"I know that nothing that I can say can mend the pain and loss you've all felt this past year and for the future to come," he said. "I accept the responsibility and consequences of my actions."

"I will take the time that I'm given today to make myself a productive member of society."

Anderson then allowed Piper to hug the three members of his family present in the courtroom before a sheriff led him out of the room.

In a discussion with the *Olds Albertan* after the hearing, Stacia said her mother had taken a private moment in the courtroom to console Piper's family.

She said her brother, who had worked all over Canada and around the world, was a kind and compassionate man who put the needs of others before his own.

In his role as a human resources worker, Stacia said, Curtis had helped other employees who had lost jobs find new work, even after he was informed his own job was being cut.

He had also established a recycling program in his workplace with proceeds from the program going to charity, she added.

Piper's family declined a request for comment outside the courtroom.

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Ina Jean Fritz-Fulton (nee Martinen)



Ina was born May 7, 1914, the only child of Kaisa and William Martinen, in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. She passed away peacefully December 26, 2013, with family at her side, at the wonderful age of 99 years. Ina was living

in Didsbury, Alberta on Unit 4 Long Term Care. Ina grew up on a farm near Shaunavon, Saskatchewan and went to a country school where she completed the highest grade possible, Grade 8. It was on the farm where she met Peter Martin Fritz, and they married in September 1931. Their only child was born December 11, 1931, Donald Peter Fritz. Ina and Peter continued to farm through drought and very hard times, until 1942 when they moved into Shaunavon so Don could attend high school. Ina fulfilled a life long dream and was tutored by superintendent Charles Boudreau, and achieved her Grade 9 & 10 education and also took 2 years of Cosmetology and Accounting. Peter died November 9, 1963. Her mother Kaisa, died 3 years later in March 1966. Kaisa had lived with Ina up until the point of her death and was cared for by Ina. It was in Saskatchewan that Ina met Bob Fulton, but they made their home together on an acreage near Creston, B.C., where they moved in 1971 and married in 1975. Bob and Ina were very involved in the community in Creston and made many friends there while enjoying cards and bowling. Ina loved music, loved to paint, loved animals and saw beauty in life. She always took great care in her looks, and was known for her red hair well into her 90's. Ina believed in a healthy lifestyle and is remembered as coming to visit her family with her suitcase of vitamins and doing workouts wearing only underwear. She loved to play games, and especially loved to win. Most of all, though, Ina loved her son. After Bob passed away in June 2002, Ina moved to Didsbury to be closer to Don. She lived in Aspen Ridge Lodge until her move to Unit 4 in March 2013. While Ina was in Didsbury, she kept in close contact with her friends in Creston and treasured the letters and cards she received. She was known to have a lot of spirit! She would grab your hand and exclaim "you're beautiful!". Ina leaves to mourn her son Don Fritz; 5 grandchildren Kathy (Al) Kemmere, Ronn Fritz (Janelle Jenstad), Karen (Mark) Cresswell, Heather (Ben) Venneman, Krista (Neil) Barclay. Ina has 11 great grandchildren Dan (Jana), Ashleigh (Rich), Chelsea (Jesse), Gus, Anders, Anna, Lauren, Breana, Meghan, Kaitlyn, Graham and baby girl due in March; and 5 great-great-grandchildren Carter, Callie, Avery, Sutton and Miller. A Funeral service was held December 30, 2013 at St. Stephen's Catholic Parish with Father Adam Danyluk officiating. Interment will follow as per Ina's wishes, back in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alberta Heart and Stroke Foundation. Ina's family would like to thank all those who have cared for her at Aspen Ridge Lodge and Unit 4 in Didsbury. She loved you all, and your care and love is so appreciated. Many thanks also to Heartland Funeral Services in Olds.

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Didsbury
REVIEW

SPRETER

It is with great sadness the family announces the passing of Frederick John Spreter on January 13, 2014 at the age of 73 years. He leaves to mourn his loving wife of 52 years, Evelyn; daughter Debbie (Dan) Beddoes; grandchildren Chalcey (Greg) Watson, Brice (Kristin) Beddoes, Bevin (Chantell) Beddoes; great-grandson Nash Beddoes; mother Kitty Spreter; two sisters Marie (Terry) Heffernan, Denise (Jim) Leask as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son Greg in 1981 and his father Fred Sr. in 2011. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral services were held on Tuesday January 21, 2014 at the Madden Community Centre with Pastor Ian Mason officiating. Interment was held prior to the service at the Crossfield Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Olds Hospital Acute or Palliative Care Units.

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110. In Memoriam 110. In Memoriam

CLARKE

In Loving Memory of My wife and Our Mom
 who passed away January 21, 2013

We thought it would be forever.

Not knowing forever would come so suddenly.

We know you are in a better place.

Without seeing that smile on your face.

Watching over from the skies.

Even if we cannot see your sparkling eyes.

We hear your jokes, laughs, and voice.

Knowing it's only in our minds and hearts by choice.

You see our tears, hear our cries.

Wishing we could have said we love you and goodbye.

But the time had come for you to go.

High beyond the sky.

You've lived, loved, learnt and dreamt.

You're happier now.

Forever in time.

Forever in our hearts.

Forever missed, loved and remembered.

Jack, Steve & Wicky and Family, Tom & Dawn and Families.

Mike & Joanne and Families, Shirley & Bill and Families.

Journa and Families

3350. Wood/Coal Fuel 3350. Wood/Coal Fuel

**PAULETS
 PAULETS**

**FREE FOR FIREWOOD,
 BUILDING, STORAGE**

CALL 403.556.7510



**AROUND
 TOWN**
 WITH THE
DIDSBURY LIBRARY

Promote your events in
 this column. Send info to
 didsburylibrary@pr.ab.ca or
 drop off copy at Didsbury
 Library 2033 19 Ave.

January 24

Story Time Winter session begins. Every Friday morning until March 21 at 10:30 bring your little ones to the library for interactive story time. Caregivers are required to remain in the library for the 30 to 45 minute program. Enjoy books, songs and rhymes with your kids, or have a coffee and wait in our lounge.

January 22

Coffee and Conversation at the Didsbury Museum. Our guests will be members of the Chinook Arch Victim's Services who work with the RCMP. These are dedicated volunteers who are available 24/7 to help and support people and families in time of trauma and

190. Announcements

ROSEBUD HALL ANNUAL
 General Meeting
 7:00 pm. January 30, 2014
 For more info: Colin
 403-335-9296

1005. Help Wanted

**Local
 Didsbury
 trucking
 company
 requires
 Class One
 Drivers with
 Super B
 experience,**
 for Alberta and
 Saskatchewan
 runs. Five days a
 week, weekends
 off. Possibly
 home 1-2 nights
 per week.
 Grain experience
 an asset.
 Call
403-586-4558

3110. Houses For Rent

FOR RENT: 3 BDRM. 2
 bath upper floor of house in
 Didsbury. \$1250/mth. SD
 \$1250.00. Avail. Feb. 1/14
 All utilities included
 F/S/DW/W/D. N/S. N/P
 403-586-7400

3125. Suites For Rent

AVAILABLE JAN. 1 IN
 Didsbury, bright 2 bedroom
 basement suite. Utilities
 included, no smoking, no
 pets. References & Sec.
 Dep. required. \$900/mth.
 Call 403-507-5094

BRIGHT, CLEAN LOWER
 suite in Didsbury. Newly
 renovated. 5 appliances
 Private entrance.
 403-637-3989

3600. Commercial

SHOP FOR RENT- 40x40
 with office + 3 piece bath.
 403-559-9866

1040. Careers

Alberta SPCA Peace Officer

Seeking mature individuals with genuine concern for animal welfare to fill one FT position in our Innisfail Office and one FT position in our Okotoks Office. Duties consist of enforcement of animal welfare legislation including investigation, documentation and court appearances. Knowledge of livestock and companion animals essential, with prior education or experience with a recognized law enforcement agency an asset.

Successful candidate will have excellent verbal & written communication skills, outstanding work ethic, be physically fit, eligible for Alberta Justice Peace Officer Appointment and hold a valid driver's license with good driving record.



Apply by January 29, 2014 to:
 Alberta SPCA Fax: (780) 447-4748
 Email: kdean@albertaspc.org excedir@albertaspc.org
 Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

1005. Help Wanted 1005. Help Wanted

BILTON BILTON WELDING AND
 MANUFACTURING LTD.
 CONTINUES TO GROW!

Recently winning the 2013 Business of the Year award, Bilton Welding and Manufacturing Ltd. designs, engineers and manufactures custom energy equipment. Since 1992, Bilton has worked with engineering firms and oil and natural gas producers around the globe to develop their own equipment standards for size, capacity and any number of technical specifications. We operate seven manufacturing facilities in Innisfail, Alberta and have recently expanded our facilities into Calgary Alberta.

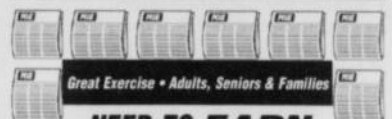
We employ over 175 people and provide ample opportunities to employees to achieve their career goals. We provide hands-on training and an opportunity to work on some of the most interesting projects and applications in the energy sector.

If you would like to be a part of our growing and dynamic team of professionals in your field, we are currently seeking:

APPRENTICE PIPEFITTERS

for full-time permanent shop positions in our Innisfail location
 We offer competitive starting Wages and benefits packages including Health, RRSP and Tool Allowance programs.

Please fax resume to 403-227-7796, email to hr@bilton.ca



Great Exercise • Adults, Seniors & Families

NEED TO EARN A LITTLE EXTRA CASH?

The Didsbury Review
 has 2 routes available

•MORRIS PLACE TO 24 AVE
 BETWEEN 21 ST & 23 ST
 •23 AVE TO 22 AVE
 BETWEEN 21 ST & 23 ST

Please call Shelley
 at 403-335-3301
 or e-mail

classifieds@didsburygreatwest.ca



1040. Careers 1040. Careers 1040. Careers

stress. Come and learn about what they do and how they serve our community behind the scenes. We are also having a representative from RBC to discuss Bank Fraud... please join us for Coffee and Conversation at the Museum... a free opportunity to learn more about your community.

January 27

Didsbury Figure Skating club presents: "Starskate Showcase" - an entertaining evening of our star-skaters' Solo Performances. Monday January 27th at 6:00pm. Didsbury Memorial Complex. Admission is Free!

January 27

Celebrate Family Literacy Day

with your family - take time each day to have "15 Minutes of Fun" ...Read, Sing, Play for literacy. Check out the display at the Library for ideas!

January 31

Movies at the Library. Friday Kids Flick at 1 and 3 pm - The Secret World of Arrietty [G] - animated fun based on the terrific children's book series "The Borrowers".

January 31

Movies at the Library. Friday Film Klatch* (*a gathering characterized usually by informal conversation) at 7 pm - enjoy the 1941 classic and enigmatic Citizen Kane [G]

FRONT PORCH REALTY

Allen Reed and Rod Neufeld 335-2222 • www.frontporchrealty.ca • 2009 - 20 Avenue, Didsbury

2 Westheights Crescent



1538 sq. ft., 3 + 1 bedrooms, 3 baths, main floor laundry, wood stove, RV parking, backs onto green space and playground, great location.

\$324,900

2018 - 20 Avenue

Be your own boss and own the building too! This character building housing the "Didsbury Cafe" is in one of the highest traffic areas in Didsbury, currently run as a cafe but has been a bakery not so long ago or could be some other venture that you have in mind, price includes equipment and fixtures, a great space for an entrepreneur, 2623 sq ft, 50' X 120' lot



\$319,900 + gst

1409 - 20 Avenue



One of the last available vacant lots on the main road coming into Didsbury, zoned Residential/Commercial, 40' x 124', ready for your ideas!

\$64,900

15 Miltford Lane, Carstairs



The "Villas at Parkview Estates". Lovely 50+ unit, fully finished, gas fireplace, vaulted ceiling, 2 bdrms, 2 dens, 2 baths, heated single garage, covered patio, great location.

\$249,900

1435 - 21 Avenue



4 plex revenue property, 2 X 2 bedroom suites and 2 X 3 bedroom suites, bi-level style, centrally located, good parking.

\$299,000

5910 - 60 Street, Oids



Great Curb Appeal! Great Location! Great Home! 1532 sq ft plus developed basement, open plan, lots of built-ins, glassed in rear deck, low maintenance landscaping, drive-through garage

\$469,900

1422 - 21 Avenue



Revenue property, 4 plex building with 3 X 2 bedroom suites and 1 X 1 bedroom suite, bi-level style, coin op laundry, lots of parking.

\$389,000

1502 - Mary Place



2 + 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, vaulted ceiling in living room, bright kitchen and dining areas, large fenced yard, R.V. parking, treated deck, well maintained.

\$298,000

2025 - 19 Avenue

Great exposure in Didsbury's downtown core, affordable building for your business or as a rental, 800 sq ft, 20' X 120' lot, reasonable price.

\$59,000



4.8 Acres on the Valley



1340 sq. ft. bungalow built in 1996, 3 1/2 baths, 4 bdrms, walk-out bsmt, in-floor heat, wrap around deck, 32 x 40 heated shop. Great location close to town.

\$639,900

The Porch Boyz



We'll help you stay on track!

1.85 Acres at Butte Hills

1266 sq. ft. fully developed cedar log home, 3+1 bdrms, 2 baths, granite counter tops, new bsmt flooring, hot tub, heated quonset, paved laneway, excellent location, easy commute.

\$649,900

4.87 Acres 8 mi. west of Didsbury

2000+ sq. ft. home, oversized dbl. att. heated garage, oversized dbl det. heated garage, 40x80 heated metal shop, 50x80 heated quonset, 40x80 Butler building, much, much more!

\$675,000

